## Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

September 21, 2020

His Excellency Cui Tiankai Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the United States 3505 International Place, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20008

Dear Ambassador Cui,

We write to express concern regarding the need for American adoptive families to travel to the People's Republic of China in order to bring their adopted child home to the United States. We understand that proper protocols must continue to be enforced to limit the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, we all recognize that it is vital for children to have the love and protection of a family. Therefore, we respectfully urge your government to consider granting prospective adoptive parents an exception to entry restrictions into China – while maintaining appropriate testing and quarantine requirements – so that these children may be united with their adoptive families.

We have a shared concern for the security and welfare of children. Children often form important emotional bonds with the adoptive families with whom they have been "matched," even before the adoption process is complete. Currently, about 300 American families of Chinese children who have been adopted or who are in the process of being adopted are unable to travel to China.

We fear that failing to allow these prospective adoptive parents to complete their adoption processes will impose additional suffering on these children. This is why we remain resolute in our desire to work with you to resolve this situation.

Thank you for your continued attention to this important matter. Our two governments have demonstrated the ability to work cooperatively on a variety of issues. We hope that this issue continues to be among them. We trust that you will work closely with the Department of State to establish a way to unite these children with their adoptive families.

Sincerely,

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Donna E. Shalala Member of Congress

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